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Foreword

This supplement presents data which were first aired at the Berlin meeting of the European Respiratory Society, in September 1997. The need to reformulate aerosol metered dose inhalers (MDIs) to comply with the Montreal Protocol eliminating the use of CFCs as propellants, has led to the production of a CFC-free formulation of beclomethasone dipropionate (HFA-BDP), which was the subject of the symposium.

The following papers discuss the key pharmacokinetic, deposition, dosage, safety and efficacy characteristics of the new formulation, and describe significant advantages for the new form over the previous CFC-containing versions.

Given that all patients currently using MDIs will shortly need to switch to new formulations, it is a topic that respiratory practitioners need to take seriously. Having reviewed these papers in my capacity as Guest Editor, I commend this supplement to our readers.

R. DAHL
Guest Editor

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